563 Tyrol, or the Ukrainians in Poland, for they at least possess a large number of schools and churches, mainly in communes [65] in which they form the majority of the population. At a time when the Rumanian government has been obliged for reasons of economy to close down several hundreds of schools and colleges, it would not be fair to impugn it for a shortage [423] of Magyar schools in Transylvania. The burning grievance, of course, remains the agrarian reform, not only because it has dispossessed Hungarian and German owners, but also because the depreciation of the Rumanian currency has practically nullified the paltry compensation they were accorded. Furthermore, religious establishments possessed extensive domains which likewise were expropriated and [65] have thereby lost most of their revenues which formerly were employed in the upkeep of churches, educational missions, and benevolent societies. This naturally constitutes a source of bitter recriminations, for both Hungarians and Germans are inclined to ascribe the treatment meted out to their religious establishments as dictated by the desire of the Rumanians to discourage their cultural activities, and to hinder the normal development of their nationality by depriving it of pecuniary resources. It is a great pity that so far no law has been framed to define the status of minorities in Rumania though this has been persistently promised them. Such an enactment would formulate once and for all the respective privileges and duties of both parties, and there would be no further grounds for recrimination except in the case of a patent violation of its clauses. The National Peasant party had prepared such a scheme which, if enacted, would have gone a long way to settle this vexed question; unfortunately after its abandonment of power it has apparently been forgotten.

With the advent of the Iorga-Argentoianu government the laudable initiative of creating a sub-secretariat for minorities was taken, to which post, M. Brandsch, a member of the German minority was appointed. He seems to have carried out his duty very conscientiously, as he has repeatedly been attacked by the ultra-nationalist press of Bucarest for his disregard of the superior interest of the Rumanian cause, and for overduly favouring the minorities. There seems to

RUMANIA

[146] late C. M. Stephanov, who was also a member of the 657 Rumanian Senate. The main cause of the effervescence that 563 still subsists is this ill-advised scheme of planting the destitute [647] Kutso-Vlachs on the farms of the aboriginal inhabitants, proof of which has been given by M. Georoceanu in a booklet he has published. M. Georoceanu was formerly a member of the Rumanian Senate during M. Maniu's tenure of office.

It may be added that the Bulgarians complain of not [658] having a single school in their villages, and that when they presented petitions for opening such their signatories had [659] been prosecuted. Bulgarian priests are no longer allowed to be nominated, and those that still remain are being gradually replaced by Rumanians who officiate naturally in their own language which is not understood by their flocks. A lesser [204] wrong which receives the condemnation only of the intellectuals, is the ban on Bulgarian newspapers and periodicals. Their introduction into Rumania is prohibited, and though a few months ago the Bucarest press announced that this embargo would be raised, yet as late as April, 1932 the police authorities in the Dobrudja had received no intimation of 563 this commendable measure. It is obvious that all these 648 grievances could easily be removed with a little goodwill on 657 the part of the Rumanian government, and to the westerner it is incomprehensible that the latter should make no effort to safeguard the happiness of hundreds of thousands of human beings whose destiny has been entrusted to its hands. For it is not only the elementary duty of a government to care for its subjects, but in this case even political reasons dictate the following of a more humane and civilized policy. The bulk of the population being Bulgarian, and having for forty years enjoyed an independent existence, is utterly unaccustomed to such maladministration as it is now experiencing. It is therefore natural that it should be soliciting the intercession of the Bulgarian government under whose suzerainty it lived until recently. This is a course that creates friction between the two governments, keeps open an old sore, and embitters and strains relations between Bulgaria and Rumania. The former country would incur every sacrifice in order to ensure Rumania's friendship, and

241 874

at last been compelled to assume at its own expense the professional training of its youth.

It is sad to record that even in educational institutions the remissness which has characterized Rumanian administration has not been adequately grappled with, and it is not surprising that the laxity manifested in this particular domain should appear especially odious to the national minorities in Rumania, which have a different moral conception of life than that of the predominating nationality. That there is much to be done in this department is obvious to all, owing to the persistence of the complaints. A storm of indignation was raised by the scandalous condition of the College of Salonta, in Transylvania, in which some 400 Hungarian and Rumanian students were being educated. Of this number of students, 50 per cent were incapacitated, owing to the disgusting lack of hygiene prevailing, and the anarchic system on which it was conducted. The parents of the students had to petition the Minister of Education to obtain amelioration of the methods in vogue, and the details exposed were so revolting that the *Cuvantul* of March 28th, 1929, commenting on them, more or less admitted that such facts justified the opprobrious epithet of " putrid Wallachs " conferred on the latter by the Hungarians.

658 • 871

From this it may be deduced that agriculture had already been ruined through the culpable remissness of Rumania's rulers before the present crisis made itself felt. The country was caught like some disabled ship by the economic hurricane which suddenly sprang up, and materially it is suffering intensely, because in its battered condition it finds it difficult to weather the storm. Fortunately, the peasantry has been used to a life of suffering and hard toil; the peasants are patient and long-suffering to an extent inconceivable in the West. Docile and good-humoured, they put up with a situation that a Westerner would long since have found intolerable and against which he would have revolted. Poverty-stricken and unguided, the peasant has not only been left to provide the means wherewith to develop his farm, but at the same time he has been forced to supply from his own scanty resources the needs of the urban populations and the bulk of the funds requisite for carrying on the administration

241 565